

Wycombe Rural District
Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1938

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Wycombe Rural District Council.

1938

Chairman :

Mr. John Holdstock.

Vice-Chairman :

Mr. G. T. Cantle Beaumont.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

At 31st December, 1938 :

Chairman :

Mr. W. G. Britnell.

The Chairman of the Council.

Mr. S. B. Biggs.

Mr. J. Bowler.

Mr. T. E. Collier.

Miss M. M. J. Couper.

Mrs. B. V. Garson.

Prof. G. E. Gask

Rev. G. Hayward.

Brig. Gen. E. S. Hoare Nairne.

Capt. J. W. McKill.

The Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Mr. F. M. Kimber.

Mr. B. S. North.

Mrs. C. Oakeshott.

Mrs. E. M. Porri.

Mr. J. Pearce.

Mr. W. Pitcher.

Mrs. E. S. Quicke.

Capt. B. W. Richards.

Mr. J. W. Saunders.

Mr. G. C. Tew.

Mr. A. J. Walker.

Mr. H. Wootton.

Mr. E. J. Ward.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, Etc.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (PART TIME).

- Francis H. P. Wills. Appointed April 1st, 1923.
House Telephone No.: Marlow 47.
- Rowland H. Herring. A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector and
Building Surveyor, No. 1 District (Wycombe).
Appointed 1901.
Office Telephone No.: High Wycombe 1030.
Extension 4.
House Telephone No.: Lane End 217.
- Walter A. E. Tanner. A.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector and Building
Surveyor, No. 2 District (Princes Ris-
borough). Appointed 1927.
Office Telephone No.: High Wycombe 1030.
Extension 4.
House Telephone No.: Princes Risborough 94.
- Walter A. E. Tanner. Water Engineer (as above).
- John P. Perry. C.R.San.I. and Certificated Food Inspector,
M.S.I.A., Assistant Sanitary Inspector.
Appointed 1931.
- Noel Morgan. A.R.S.I., Certificated Inspector, Assistant
Sanitary and Housing Inspector. Appointed
1935.
- Dennis J. Sullivan. M.S.I.A., Certificated Assistant Sanitary Inspec-
tor, Appointed December, 1938.
- Stanley A. Latimer. Draughtsman and Certificated R.S.I. Inspector.
Appointed 1938.
- Miss A. Hole. Clerk. Appointed 19th April, 1931.

Housing Architect : Charles H. Wright, F.R.I.B.A. Appointed 1919.
Planning Officer : Kenneth O. Male, 100, Easton Street, High Wycombe.
Temporary Clerk of Works and Engineering Assistant : Mr. H. A. Oates.
Appointed 1934.
Clerk of Works, Housing Scheme: John Bowyer. Appointed 1935.
Foreman Mechanic, Cleansing Department : Mr. W. E. Osborne.
Appointed 1933.

OFFICES AND COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL :—

17, High Street, High Wycombe.

Telephone No.: High Wycombe 1030.

Wycombe Rural District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
17, High Street,
High Wycombe.

June, 1939.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Public Health Services of the Council for the year 1938.

It has been compiled in accordance with those sections of the Ministry of Health's Circular No. 1728, relevant to the District.

The Infantile Mortality Rate, and the Mortality Rate from Infectious Diseases continue low, and from the statistics furnished it will be observed that 1938 has been a very healthy year.

I am again indebted to the senior officers of the Public Health Department for their valued services, not only in respect of matters appertaining to increase of work in connection with Public Health and Factory legislation, but also to the extra work necessitated by Air Raid Precautions.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS H. P. WILLS,
Medical Officer of Health.

The Old House,
Marlow,
Bucks.

STATISTICS.

Area of the Wycombe Rural District (in acres)	71,236 acres
Resident Population (Census 1931)	27,495
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid year, 1938	29,870
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	9,066
Rateable Value	£188,094
Estimated Product of Penny Rate	£710

EXTRACTS from VITAL STATISTICS of the Year.

	Total.	Malc.	Female.
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate	440	231	209
Illegitimate	13	4	9
	<hr/> 453	<hr/> 235	<hr/> 218
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total.	Male.	Female.
STILL BIRTHS—Legitimate	12	7	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 12	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population=15.1.

“ “ “ “ “ “ England and Wales=15.1

“ “ “ “ “ “ Bucks County=14.7.

DEATH :—Male 164. Female 163. Total 327.

The Death Rate per 1,000 corrected for age and sex distribution
of the estimated population=9.7.

“ “ “ “ “ “ England and Wales=11.6.

“ “ “ “ “ “ Wycombe R.D.C., Phthisis=0.3.

“ “ “ “ “ “ County, Phthisis=0.3.

Number of women dying in consequence of childbirth. Deaths—

(a) From Puerperal sepsis

1

(b) From other puerperal causes

1

Total 2

INFANT MORTALITY.—Thirteen infants died under the age of one year.

Legitimate 6 Males. 6 Females.

Illegitimate 1 “ — “

Total 7 “ 6 “

A mortality of 28.7 as compared with that of England and Wales
of 53.0 per 1,000,

The thirteen deaths were attributable to the following:—

Premature Births	...	...	...	...	...	6
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Debility	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	1
Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2

CANCER.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 26 Males; 25 Females=51.
as compared with 18 Males; 31 Females=49 in 1937.
" " 19 Males; 30 Females=49 in 1936.
" " 21 Males; 24 Females=45 in 1935.

The following organs were affected:—

Breast	...	...	...	3	Kidney	...	...	...	1
Uterus	...	...	...	4	Liver	...	...	...	2
Prostate	...	...	...	2	Gall Bladder	...	...	...	1
Larynx	...	...	...	1	Stomach	...	...	...	13
Lungs	...	...	...	2	Colon	...	...	...	5
Nose	...	...	...	1	Rectum	...	...	...	4

Other parts of body=12.

TABLE OF DEATHS (All causes).

	Males.	Females.
All Causes	164	163
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fever	—	—
2. Measles	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	1
4. Whooping Cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—
6. Influenza	4	1
7. Encephalitis lethargica	—	—
8. Cerebro spinal fever	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	9	1
10. Other tuberculosis	2	1
11. Syphilis	—	—
12. General paralysis of the insane—tabes dorsalis	—	—
13. Cancer	26	25
14. Diabetes	2	3
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	9	11
16. Heart disease	40	33
17. Aneurism	—	—
18. Other circulatory diseases	17	13
19. Bronchitis	1	2
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	10	11
21. Other respiratory diseases	1	1
22. Peptic ulcer	1	—
23. Diarrhoea, under two years	—	1
24. Cirrhosis of liver	—	—

	Males.	Females.
25. Appendicitis	—	1
26. Other diseases of liver	—	3
27. Other digestive diseases	4	7
28. Acute and chronic nephritis	2	8
29. Puerperal sepsis	—	1
30. Other puerperal causes	—	—
31. Congenital debility, premature births, mal- formations, etc.	5	6
32. Senility	4	3
33. Suicide	2	2
34. Other violence	9	5
35. Other defined diseases	15	12
36. Causes ill defined or unknown	1	—

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Clinical Material, e.g., Swabs, Water, Milk, etc., when required to be analysed are examined by the Camberwell Research Laboratories, Denmark Hill, London, and the Clinical Research Association, York Buildings, Adelphi, London W.C.2.

Special analyses in respect of River Water have also been conducted, and reports furnished thereon, by Messrs. Augustus Voelcker and Sons, Stuart House, Tudor Street, London, E.8.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied to practitioners free of charge.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The following ambulance facilities are available in the area of the Wycombe Rural District Council.

(a) For Infectious Cases:—

An ambulance is supplied by the Wycombe and District Joint Hospital Board for service in the Borough of Chepping Wycombe, the Urban Districts of Beaconsfield and Marlow, and the Rural District of Wycombe. The facilities are adequate for the areas served.

(b) For Non-Infectious Cases:—

An ambulance is kept at St. John Ambulance Brigade Headquarters, Bourne End, and is available in the South Eastern portion of the Rural District.

For the remainder of the area, ambulances are available from the adjoining Boroughs of Chepping Wycombe, Aylesbury and Henley-on-Thames, and the Urban District of Marlow.

For normal needs, the above facilities are reasonably sufficient.

Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals Public and Voluntary.	} No developments or changes have occurred during the past year.
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AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

The organisation of the Council's Air Raid Precautions Scheme and the necessary work occasioned by the details thereof has fallen largely on the Public Health Department. The urgency of pressing forward with the details of the scheme in the early months of the year and the crisis in September necessitated a considerable amount of the time of the Department's staff being taken up. The first-aid services under the scheme are made the responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health and, by arrangements with the local branch of the British Red Cross Society and the various local St. John Ambulance Brigade sections, the necessary personnel has been recruited and trained. This area is scheduled to receive a large number of evacuees from London in a time of emergency, which will, undoubtedly, bring an additional burden of public health responsibility. All this additional work has severely taxed the resources of the Public Health Department during the past year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water: No difficulty was experienced during the year in respect of quality or quantity in respect of water used for drinking or domestic purposes. No serious drought was experienced during the year, but undoubtedly the benefit of the comprehensive water supply scheme which was recently installed throughout the Council's area is already being experienced.

Chemical and bacteriological examination of the various piped water supplies was carried out during the year. The Water Companies operating in the Council's area carry out their own analysis and copies thereof are furnished to the Medical Officer. Samples are taken regularly every two months of the Council's own water supply and the results of the chemical and bacteriological examinations thereof show a very high standard of purity.

Drainage and Sewerage: The Wooburn Valley Sewerage Scheme is still under preparation by the Council's Consulting Engineers. The site for the disposal works, which has occasioned considerable difficulty, has now been selected at Little Marlow, and further mill owners have now decided to participate in the scheme. A scheme is urgently needed and it is hoped that in the near future such will be approved and work thereon commenced.

Rivers and Streams: The pollution of rivers and streams is under the control of the Thames Conservancy.

The Council work in conjunction with the Board's Inspectors, who keep a complete record of every inspection made by their officers and also of the frequent analyses of samples.

With the exception of the River Wye—which flows through the Wooburn Valley—no unsatisfactory reports have been received as to the quality of the waters.

The River Wye receives the effluent from one sewage works and five paper mills.

The composition of the river constantly changes, one day the water may be full of suspended matter and also coloured, and the next day the water may be clear.

Portions of the river bed and back streams contain large accumulations of decayed vegetation, deposits of finely divided particles of vegetable matter from manufacturing processes, and mineral debris.

The rivers and back streams generally have not been properly cleansed for a considerable number of years, but during the latter part of the year the Thames Conservancy became responsible, under the Land Drainage Act, for certain works which should materially improve the river water.

During the early summer of 1938, four samples of river water were submitted to the Camberwell Research Laboratories, 134, Denmark Hill, S.E.5, for analysis, and as a result of the reports your Council called in the services of Analytical Chemists, Messrs. Augustus Voelcker and Sons, Stuart House, Tudor Street, London, E.8, to conduct a series of analyses and to report thereon as to any pollution.

Doctor Eric Voelcker and his Chief Assistant inspected the River Wye above and below the suspected source of pollution, and after examination of six samples the Analyst reported that the samples taken at points above Loudwater village would pass the suggested standard of the Royal Commission on the Treatment and Disposal of Sewage, but the water submitted for analysis from a point below the village contained 7.40 parts per 100,000 of suspended matter with a Biological oxygen demand of 0.94.

Of the suspended matter, one half was due to organic matter as compared with 1/8th two miles above stream.

In consequence of the report submitted by Doctor Voelcker, your Committee communicated with the Secretary of the Thames Conservancy, 2 and 3, Norfolk Street, Strand, London, W.C.2, and on the 15th of November last the Secretary informed the Council that:—

“ during the first week in September last, samples were taken by the Conservators' officers of effluents discharging to the Wye Stream from the paper mills, and also from the Wycombe Borough Sewage Outfall Works, as well as of the water in the stream itself at various points.

With the exception of the discharge from "S.P.M." none of the samples was considered by the Conservators' Analyst as offensive or injurious.

The various effluents discharging to the stream will continue to be kept under careful observation with the view of preventing pollution thereby; and the Conservators have reason to think that as a result of steps taken by them, the trouble at "S.P.M." will shortly be remedied at least temporarily. At the same time the River Purification Committee wish me to point out that the best remedy for securing the permanent improvement of the stream water would be the diversion of the various paper mill effluents to a proper scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for the District such as, it is understood, has been and still is under the consideration of your Council.

Works are in progress at "S.P.M." and when same are completed the effluent discharged should prove of a satisfactory character."

Closet Accommodation: During the year, as a result of informal notices under the Housing and Public Health Acts, forty-four modern W.C.'s have replaced pail closets, etc., to existing houses, and fifty-three privy middens and pail closets have also been converted into water flushed closets connected to cesspools which are emptied by the Public Cleansing Department.

No action has been taken under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which relates to assistance given by the Local Authority in connection with the conversion referred to.

Public Cleansing: No extension of the Public Cleansing Service has taken place during the past year, and the particulars on page 9 of my last Annual Report applies to the service rendered during 1938.

Cesspool-emptying services are given by six motor vacuum cesspool emptiers, and the sewage is disposed of on agricultural land. The lack of main drainage in those areas which are rapidly developing and the increasing difficulty of securing satisfactory sites for disposal renders it extremely difficult to cope with the work of emptying.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911-1923.

No rag flock is manufactured in the district.

The bulk of the flock is guaranteed clean, and a warranty is given by the manufacturers to that effect.

Samples of Rag Flock, when necessary, are submitted for analysis.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1938.
GENERAL.

	No. 1.	No. 2.
Number of General Inspections and subsequent visits to houses previously inspected and recorded under the Public Health and Housing Acts, comprising	1845	1027
Inspections and visits under the Housing Act, 1936, and the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and visits to houses previously inspected but works not completed	1171	768
Inspections and visits under Housing Act, 1936 (Part 4), Overcrowding, and inspections of houses occupied by applicants for Council Houses	415	97
Inspections under the Public Health Acts	259	162
Number of dwelling houses inspected and recorded during the year under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	122	
Number of interviews with Owners in respect of Housing Repairs, Plans and Specifications for reconditioning dwelling houses	239	
Number of visits to houses owned by Council re Overcrowding	541	

WORKS EXECUTED AS A RESULT OF NOTICES.

	No. 1.	No. 2.
Dwelling house roofs repaired	52	18
„ „ eaves gutters repaired or provided where missing	58	21
„ „ brickwork to walls, chimney heads, etc., made good	51	15
„ „ woodwork to windows repaired	50	22
„ „ interior plaster made good	56	—
„ „ windows made to open for the purpose of ventilation	34	17
„ „ woodwork to stairs, floors, etc., repaired	54	12
„ „ dampness remedied	36	—
„ „ interior walls cleansed and redecorated	44	14
„ „ cooking arrangements, etc., rendered serviceable	29	12
„ „ outbuildings repaired	15	9

	No. 1.	No. 2.
Miscellaneous Works	—	29
Dwelling house drains cleansed, ventilated or made sound	7	10
" " new drainage system provided	51	9
" " new cesspools provided	27	7
E.C.'s or privies converted to W.C.'s	45	8
Closets repaired	6	6
New W.C.'s constructed	44	—
House sinks provided	24	14
Sanitary ashbins provided	24	11
Manure accumulation nuisances abated	2	3
Animal nuisances abated	2	—
Yards paved and drained	38	—

WATER SUPPLY.

	No. 1.	No. 2.
Houses connected to water mains	43	52
R.W. Tanks, cisterns, etc., cleansed and repaired	2	9
Wells cleansed and repaired	—	4
Samples of water submitted for analysis	18	5
" " " bad	6	2
" " " good	12	3
Inspections re Water supplies	59	—

FOOD SUPPLIES.

	No. 1. lbs.	No. 2. lbs.
Meat surrendered as unfit for human consumption ...	2479	2110
OX, BULLOCK, COW—		
Tuberculosis and other diseases	1270	1571
Visceral, liver, heart, lungs, viscera	341	190
Other parts	26	24
PIG—		
Tuberculosis and other diseases	482	199
Visceral	121	104
MUTTON—		
Carcase or portion of carcase	185	—
Visceral	54	22
SLAUGHTERHOUSES—		
Number on Register	5	20
" licensed during year	—	—
" defects found	15	8
" " remedied	15	8
" inspections made	578	514

	No. 1. lbs.	No. 2. lbs.
BAKEHOUSES—		
Number on Register	17	17
„ defects found	4	6
„ defects remedied	4	5
„ inspections made	32	7

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS—

Number of cowkeepers on register	147	131
„ milk traders, wholesale and retail	46	63
„ „ „ wholesale	37	59
„ „ „ retail	64	9
„ inspections made	171	37
„ defects found	35	10
„ defects remedied	34	6

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—

Number of inspections	} See Factories Act Report, last page.
„ „ defects found	
„ „ defects remedied	

VARIOUS—

Number of visits made to infected houses	—	—
„ „ investigations, schools, etc., re infectious cases	69	14
„ „ houses disinfected	19	13
„ „ houses disinfecting	1	2
„ „ Council houses found infested with bugs	1	2
„ „ Council houses disinfected	1	2
„ „ other houses found infested	—	—
„ „ „ „ disinfecting	—	—

BUILDINGS—

Total number of plans submitted	277	172
comprising:—		
Plans for dwelling houses	144	95
„ „ additions to dwelling houses	55	35
„ „ factory buildings	2	2
„ „ other buildings, i.e., garages, etc.	45	28
„ „ house drainage, etc.	21	10
„ „ lay outs of land	3	2
Number of letters, Approval and Building Notices and Certificates	1222	768

SEWAGE DISPOSED OF FROM CESSPOOLS DURING THE YEAR
ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1938.

Bledlow-cum-Saunderton	...	...	...	...	...	383,650	gallons
Bradenham	...	...	...	...	...	20,500	„
Ellesborough	...	...	...	...	...	272,100	„
Medmenham and Fawley	...	...	...	...	...	147,850	„
Fingest	...	...	...	...	...	1,037,350	„
Hambleton	...	...	...	...	...	478,350	„
Hampden	...	...	...	...	...	5,950	„
Hughenden	...	...	...	...	...	2,504,900	„
Ibstone	...	...	...	...	...	68,100	„
Turville	...	...	...	...	...	74,250	„
Great and Little Kimble	...	...	...	...	...	301,650	„
Lacey Green	...	...	...	...	...	259,350	„
Longwick-cum-Illmire	...	...	...	...	...	154,850	„
Chepping Wycombe Rural	...	...	...	...	...	2,479,450	„
Stokenchurch	...	...	...	...	...	2,235,850	„
Radnage	...	...	...	...	...	174,550	„
Wooburn	...	...	...	...	...	2,769,250	„
West Wycombe	...	...	...	...	...	569,200	„
Princes Risborough	...	...	...	...	...	219,400	„
Marlow, Great	...	...	...	...	...	191,400	„
Marlow, Little	...	...	...	...	...	87,600	„
						<hr/>	
Total						14,435,550	„
						<hr/>	

1937—Total Gallons 12,493,840.

SUMMARY OF INFORMAL NOTICES AND RESULTS OF SAME.

Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935,
and of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1936, in relation to Inspections,
Notices, etc.

Acts and Sections under which Notices were served.	No of informal notices, &c. letters.	Complied with.	Not complied with.
P.H.A., 1936, Sec. 92 (a)	114	101	13
" " " " (b)	2	2	...
" " " " (c)	3	3	...
" " " 39	132	132	...
" " " 44-45	12	12	...
" " " 56	38	38	...
" " " 75	35	35	...
" " " 139	95	95	...
" " " 141	15	15	...
Housing Act, 1936, and Regulations	548	501	47
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926	192	187	5
Factory Act, 1937	44	44	...
Totals	1230	1165	65

SUMMARY OF STATUTORY NOTICES AND RESULTS OF SAME.

Acts and Sections under which Notices were served.	No. of Notices	Complied with.	Work in progress at end of year.	Notices not complied with.	Prosecutions.
P.H.A., 1936, Sec. 92 (1) (a)	13	2	3	8	...
" " " " (b) .....	...	...	...	...	...
" " " " (c) .....	...	...	...	...	...
" " " 39 .....	...	...	...	...	...
" " " 44-45 .....	...	...	...	...	...
" " " 56 .....	...	...	...	...	...
" " " 75 .....	...	...	...	...	...
" " " 138 .....	...	...	...	...	...
" " " 141 .....	...	...	...	...	...
Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 9	12	12	...	...	...
" " " 11	11	8	3	...	...
" " " 13 .....	...	...	...	...	...
" " " 16 .....	...	...	...	...	...
" " " 26	7	...	...	...	7
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926	5	2	2	1	...
Factories Act, 1937 .....	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	48	24	8	9	7

CAMPING SITES.

Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, empowers Local Authorities to grant or refuse licences to persons who wish to establish permanent colonies of tents or caravans on their land.

The section permits a tent, etc., to remain on a site without a licence, provided the period of stay does not exceed forty-two consecutive days or a total of sixty days in any twelve consecutive months.

Section (6) of the Public Health Act, 1936, empowers the Minister of Health to grant to a camping organisation or an organisation of whose activities camping forms a part a certificate of exemption from the provisions of the section, where he is satisfied that the organisation takes steps for securing that camping sites belonging to or provided by it or used by its members are properly managed and kept in good sanitary condition; and that moveable dwellings used by its members are so used as not to give rise to any nuisance.

The Act chiefly concerns owners of sites and those camping for unusually long periods in the same place.

The motor camper or caravanner touring from site to site does not need to obtain a licence, and is not affected provided that he sees that there are proper sanitary arrangements and that nothing is allowed which might be prejudicial to health.

But few sites have been used for camping purposes, and the majority of campers are only in occupation for a less period than six weeks.

The number of sites used for camping purposes=3.
 „ „ „ licences issued under Sec. 269
 of the Public Health Act, 1936=3.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Infestation is discovered during routine inspection or on complaint by the householders.

The methods employed for freeing infested houses are as described on page 15 of my 1937 Annual Report.

The work is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department and solutions, powders and gases are supplied free of charge.

1.	Number of Council Houses found to be infested	...	3	
	„ „ „ „ disinested	...	...	3
2.	„ „ other houses found to be infested	...	...	—
	„ „ „ „ disinested	...	...	—
				} Nil.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—	
1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	298
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	310
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-heading 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 & 1932	122
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	134
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	31
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	78
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	47
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—	
(a) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 9, 10 and 16 of the HOUSING ACT, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	12
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	12
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(b) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	11
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 11 and 13 of the HOUSING ACT, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	8

(d) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 of the HOUSING ACT, 1936:—

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made —
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit —

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV.—OVERCROWDING:—

- (a) (i) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year 36
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein 36
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 217
- (b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year 6
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year 31
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 150
- (d) Particulars of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding —
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report —

FOOD SUPERVISION.

Milk Supplies: The County Council are responsible for the health and inspection of cattle under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, etc.

Inspection of cowsheds and dairies are, whenever possible, made at the time of milking, and your officers have not received any complaint from outside sources.

The cowsheds and cattle are generally clean and well kept, and the milk produced is of good quality.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936. At the end of the year licences had been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, as follows:—

Designation.	Number of Producers.	Dealers Bottling Licence.	Dealers Retailing Licence.	Supplementary Licence.
Tuberculin Tested	11	3	—	—
Accredited	37	—	—	—
Pasteurised	—	—	—	1

Meat and Other Foods: Cattle markets are held at Aylesbury and Wycombe Borough and in the Urban District of Marlow, from which areas the bulk of the meat supplies are obtained.

All animals slaughtered on licensed or registered premises are killed by humane methods.

The cattle are generally insured and compensation is given for surrendered food by the Vale of Aylesbury Cattle Insurance Society, Ltd.

The slaughter houses, etc., receive frequent visits, and during the year 1,092 inspections were made of slaughter houses, shops and premises where food is prepared.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933: Since my last Annual Report no new licences have been issued, and 17 licences renewed for persons to slaughter or stun animals, in accordance with the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Thirty-four cases of Scarlet Fever and five of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever: One case of Scarlet Fever proved fatal, the remaining cases were of a mild type and were notified from the following Parishes:—

Hughenden 10.
Chepping Wycombe Rural 7.
Wooburn 2.
Little Marlow 1.
Fingest 1.
Princes Risborough 5.
Lacey Green 3.
West Wycombe Rural 2.
Longwick cum Illmire 2.
Great Hampden 1.

Twenty-nine cases were admitted to Hospital.

Diphtheria: The number of cases notified was 5, an increase of one over last year.

The diphtheria patients from Lane End, Wooburn, Tylers Green (Rayners School), Bledlow and Monks Risborough, received treatment at the Isolation Hospital, Booker.

There was no death among the notified cases.

TABLE 1. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS), 1938.

Diseases.	Total cases notified.	Patients admitted to hospital.		Total Deaths.
Smallpox	—	...	—	—
Scarlet Fever	34	...	29	—
Diphtheria	5	...	5	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	...	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	...	4	—
Pneumonia	18	...	8	21
Erysipelas	11	...	2	—
Poliomyelitis	—	...	—	—
Chicken pox	—	...	1	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE 2. NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1938.

The following particulars relate to new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease during the past year.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	2	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
35	4	...	1	...	2	1	...	...
45	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
55	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS :—	8	...	3	—	7	2	1	—

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No notifications during the year were received in respect of tuberculosis employees, and no action was taken in connection with Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

RAINFALL, 1938.

Professor Geo. E. Gask, "Hatchmans," Hambleden, and Mr. James Woods, "The Cottage," Hedsor Park, Bucks, have again favoured me with particulars of recorded rainfall during the year ended December 31st, 1938.

RAINFALL RECORDED AT HEDSOR. Station: 170 feet above sea level.					RAINFALL RECORDED AT HAMBLEDEN. Station: 185 feet above sea level.			
MONTH	Annual Rain-fall.	No. of days on which rain fell with .01 or more measured.	Largest Rainfall.		Annual Rain-fall.	No. of days on which rain fell with .01 or more measured.	Largest Rainfall.	
			Date	Amount			Date	Amount
January	3.60	19	12th	.37	3.73	22	16th	.60
February .....	.41	7	26th	.19	.57	7	24th	.30
March .....	.28	3	24th	.17	.43	4	24th	.21
April .....	.27	2	27th	.04	.10	5	2nd	.05
May	1.97	12	28th	.78	2.12	14	28th	.75
June .....	.57	6	30th	.19	.51	5	27th	.23
July	1.41	12	7th	.40	1.77	11	7th	.35
August	2.68	15	28th	.64	3.62	14	7th	.85
September	1.84	17	26th	.34	2.46	17	27th	.50
October	3.01	16	3rd	.60	3.30	20	3rd	.81
November	3.30	14	25th	.98	3.80	19	18th	.60
December	2.97	12	21st	.65	3.35	18	8th	.77
Totals	22.31	135			25.76	156		
Total of wet days—135. Rainfall July to December—15.21. Total Rainfall during 1937—34.41. " " " 1936—28.50. " " " 1935—29.29. " " " 1934—23.38. " " " 1933—20.56.					Total of wet days—156. Rainfall July to Dec.—18.30 Total Rainfall during 1927—35.85.			

The rainfall at Booker, 510 feet above sea-level, during the year 1938=23.27.

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM

Birth and Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates, 1938 and 1937.

	Birth Rate per 1,000.		Death Rate per 1,000		Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 births.		Phthisis death rate per 1,000.		Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and stillbirths.	
	1938.	1937.	1938*	1937*	1938.	1937.	1938.	1937.	1938.	1937.
Aylesbury	15.5	15.2	11.9 (10.9)	11.6 (10.7)	31.1	41.6	0.3	0.7		
Baconsfield	12.2	12.3	9.3 (9.7)	12.0 (12.5)	44.8	76.0	0.4	0.4		
Bletchley	15.4	18.3	10.5 (9.3)	12.2 (10.8)	34.8	66.6	0.1	0.5		
Buckingham	15.5	14.0	13.4 (10.4)	10.9 (8.5)	19.6	Nil	0.3	0.3		
Chesham	12.8	12.8	9.7 (8.8)	11.9 (10.8)	30.1	45.4	0.3	0.2		
Eton	9.3	6.5	6.6 (8.3)	10.0 (12.6)	Nil	38.1	1.0	0.5		
Linslade	15.3	12.3	10.4 (8.3)	13.4 (10.7)	Nil	60.6	Nil	Nil		
Marlow	16.2	15.1	12.7 (11.6)	13.3 (12.6)	46.0	49.4	0.9	0.4		
Newport Pagnell	10.2	12.1	13.0 (9.8)	16.5 (12.4)	Nil	40.8	0.5	0.7		
Slough	19.6	18.0	8.3 (9.0)	9.1 (9.8)	44.3	41.3	0.4	0.6		
Wolverton	10.7	10.7	10.6 (9.0)	13.3 (11.0)	29.2	21.9	0.3	0.6		
Wycombe	15.5	16.5	8.4 (8.7)	10.4 (10.8)	26.5	25.1	0.3	0.7		
Total Urban	15.9	15.5	9.5 (9.1)	10.8 (10.4)	34.6	38.7	0.3	0.6	2.8	2.5
Amersham	13.4	15.1	10.1 (9.6)	10.3 (9.8)	23.3	42.0	0.3	0.4		
Aylesbury	11.0	12.0	9.0 (7.9)	10.7 (9.4)	20.0	31.4	0.3	0.3		
Buckingham	14.9	12.0	10.7 (8.1)	11.3 (8.6)	35.4	77.0	Nil	Nil		
Eton	15.1	15.2	10.0 (9.7)	11.9 (11.5)	30.7	48.0	0.3	0.5		
Newport Pagnell	13.4	12.5	12.0 (9.0)	15.9 (11.9)	52.3	50.0	0.3	0.8		
Wing	13.1	14.5	13.4 (10.0)	13.7 (10.2)	57.5	41.2	0.4	0.3		
Winslow	9.0	10.4	11.2 (8.0)	14.7 (10.4)	Nil	29.4	0.3	0.3		
Wycombe	15.1	15.8	10.9 (9.7)	11.3 (10.0)	28.7	36.4	0.3	0.2		
Total Rural	13.5	14.1	10.4 (9.0)	11.8 (10.3)	29.5	42.2	0.3	0.4	2.8	1.8
County	14.7	14.8	10.0	11.3	32.2	40.4	0.3	0.5	2.8	2.1
England and Wales	15.1	14.9	11.6	12.4	53.0	58.0		0.5	3.08	3.1

*Death rates corrected for age and sex distribution.

STATISTICS PROVIDED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death rates and Case rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938.

England and Wales,
London, 126 Great
Towns and 148 Smaller
Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (resident popu- lations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.
Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births—				
Live	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4
Still	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48
Deaths—				
All Causes	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4
Typhoid and Para- typhoid fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06
Scarlet fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05
Influenza	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06
Notifications—				
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet fever	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05
Diphtheria	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90
Enteric fever	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05
Erysipelas	0.10	0.46	0.39	0.46
Pneumonia	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	53.	57.	51.	57.
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1
Maternal Mortality—				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.89	Not avail able.		
Others	2.19			
Total	3.08			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., Live and Still).				
Maternal Mortality—				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.86	Not avail able.		
Others	2.11			
Total	2.97			
Notifications—				
Puerperal fever	14.42	18.08	12.51	3.53
Puerperal pyrexia				15.46

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1938 for the Rural District of Wycombe in the County of Buckinghamshire on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938).

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.
INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES with mechanical power ...	26	...	...
FACTORIES without mechanical power ...	32	18	...
†Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ...	150	26	...
†Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.			
Total ...	208	44	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to M.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	18	18	...	...
Overcrowding (S.2.) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	9	9	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Con- { insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...
veniences (S.7.) { unsuitable or defective	5	5	...	...
{ not separate for sexes ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... ..	...	...	...	...
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total	32	32	—	—

F. H. P. WILLS,
Medical Officer of Health,
Wycombe Rural District Council,

